

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
Wednesday, May 4, 2016**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the Attorney's Office Conference Room, 150 Quality Hill Road, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Patrick G. Call, Vice-Chairman; Ann English, Member
Absent: Richard R. Searle, Chairman
Staff Present: James E. Vlahovich, County Administrator
Edward T. Gilligan, Deputy County Administrator
Brian McIntyre, County Attorney
Britt W. Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Arlenthe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board
Mike McGinnis, Budget Manager, Finance Department

Vice-Chairman Call called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Budget Work Session - Discussion of County budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 specifically: the Attorney's Office.

Vice-Chairman Call had everyone introduce themselves.

Mr. Brian McIntyre, County Attorney, said that they had to deal with gaps in special revenues and his staff was looking for a long term solution to address the gap of \$91,000. He said that there are some revenue bonds that can assist with covering this decrease as well as using vacancy savings. He also noted that they would be working with Finance to clean up fund lines and ensure salaries were coming from the appropriate fund line. He gave the Board statistics on case loads and prosecuted cases and noted that there were many more prosecuted cases finished in 2015.

Supervisor English asked if special revenue fund positions would continue if the funds were

no longer available.

Mr. Britt Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney, explained that when special revenue positions were hired they were made aware that the position would only be active if there were special revenue funds available. He also asked for an additional \$2,000 to cover full costs of two extra positions recently filled due to dependent medical coverage costs.

Mr. Vlahovich said the general fund could cover those costs.

Mr. McIntyre asked the Board if they would consider raising the salaries of his two deputy positions. He noted that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Hanson are the lowest paid chief deputies in the State. He said that he anticipated the increase to be about \$10,000 for each of them to recognize their hard work.

Mr. Hanson said that he had ensured his employees received raises by being innovative and offered to cover the increases for the first year, but noted that after that the general fund would have to provide the funding.

Mr. Gilligan said that attorney salaries were of the most concern because they were below market value.

Supervisor English said that the entire compensation program should be addressed, not only special circumstances.

Mr. McIntyre commented on the Early Resolution Court (ERC) and said that it was a successful program that helped keep costs down.

Mr. Gilligan said that although ERC has been a great program the cost for the defense is paid for by the general fund, which is a concern.

Mr. Vlahovich noted that staff would be reviewing the fee schedule for contract attorneys to alleviate some of the costs.

Supervisor English said that the entire system has to be looked at by all those involved.

The Board thanked Mr. McIntyre for the update.

Vice-Chairman Call adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

APPROVED:

Patrick G. Call, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlthe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board